

AUG 1 '73

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# HISTORICAL FACTS

and LEGENDS

of **LAKE COUNTY,**

**1834-1966**

**INDIANA**



## THE THREE COURT HOUSES

A log building - 1838 — cost \$500.00.

A two story frame building - 1849 — cost \$10,000.00.

The present brick building - 1878 — cost \$53,000.00.



The U. S. surveyors completed work in the Northwest corner of Indiana in the summer of 1834.

This "Land of Promise" had a varied topography from the south boundary which was the meandering Kankakee River with its vast swamplands, northward across the lush prairies, the water shed and cranberry marshes, to the sand dunes of the gently curving shore of Lake Michigan.

From Vevay, Jennings County, southern Indiana, came Solon Robinson, wife Mariah, little Solon and baby Josephine in a big prairie schooner. The long, tiresome journey ended October 31, 1834.

November 1, Solon staked a claim and began to build a log cabin for the home. Hail to the first permanent settlers in Lake County.

Stealing claims was prevalent. Solon's legal mind, and natural leadership caused him to organize the "Squatter's Union". He set up the claim registers, kept from October, 1834 through 1837. This protected the legal rights of everyone who staked a claim. Solon became the "Squatter King."





The Hack family, from the Rhine Province, Germany, settled in Prairie West in 1837. In 1843 John Hack built a log Chapel on his farm, where the now large German Catholic settlement might worship.

The building was sold to a farmer after the brick church was erected in 1856 in the village of St. Johns. In the 1920's the Boy Scout Council purchased the chapel and moved it to the Lake County Fairgrounds to serve as a retreat.

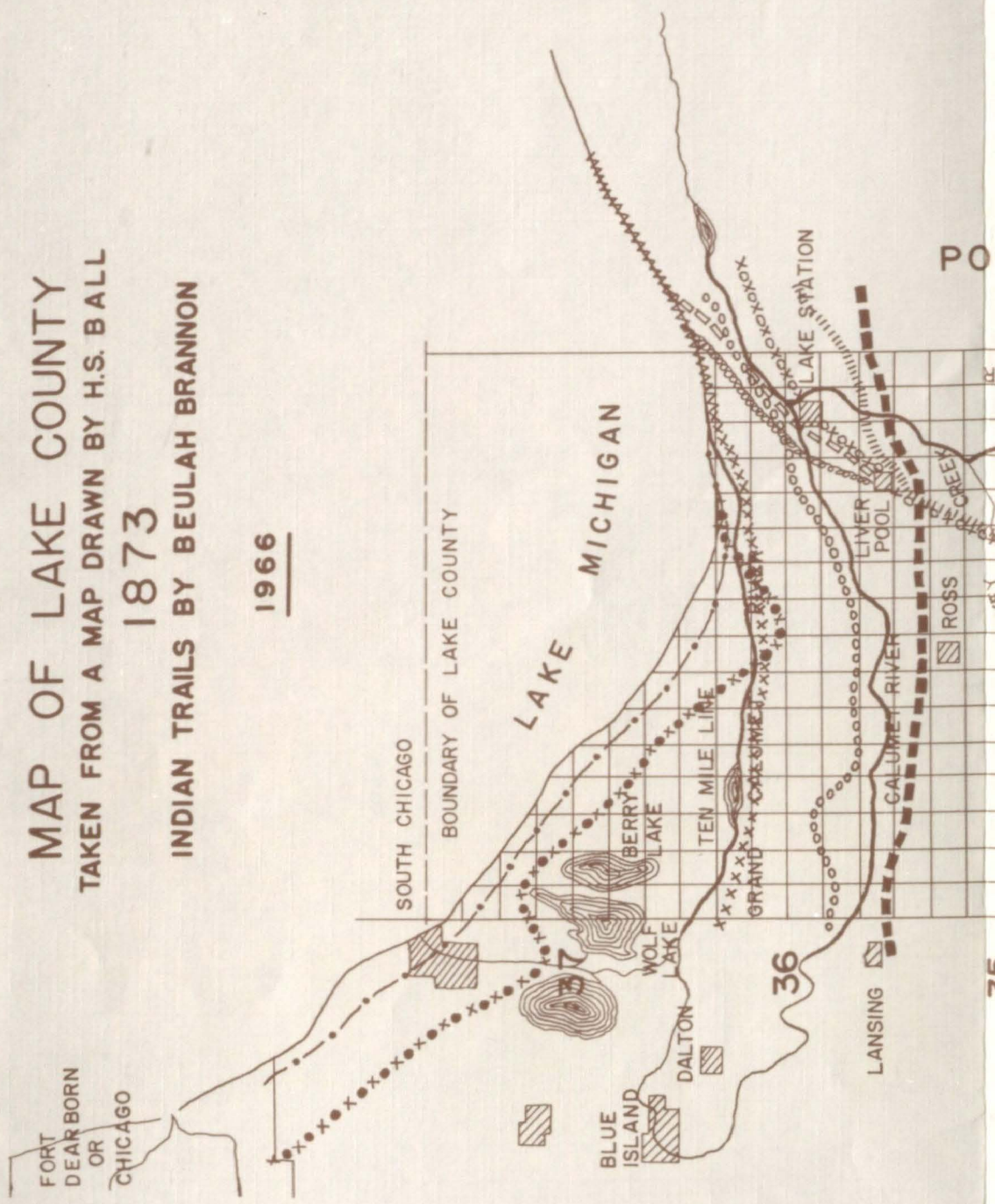
In 1963, The Capuchin Seminary, in the process of establishing east of Schererville, became the location. It has been carefully restored by the Friar craftsmen.



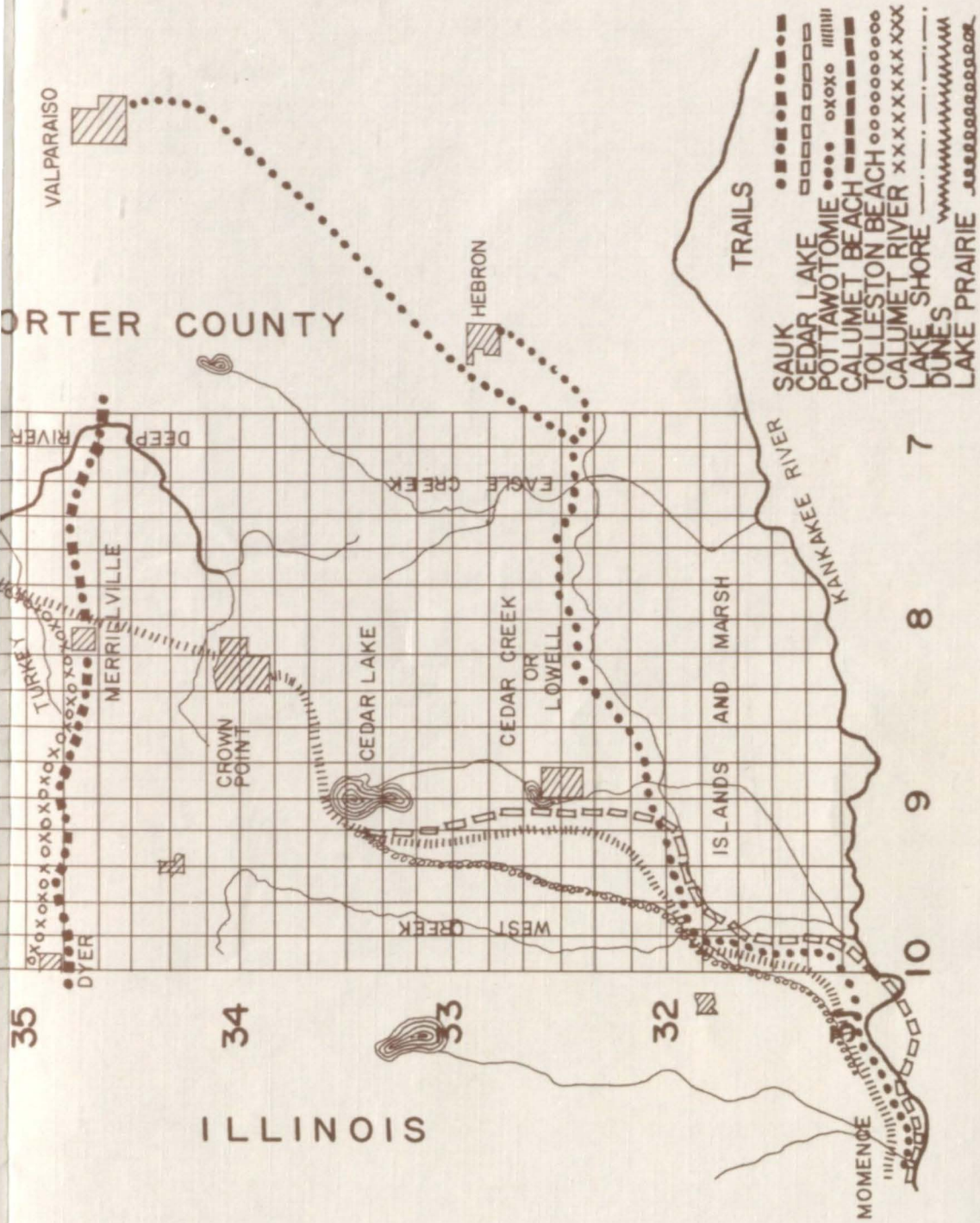
MAP OF LAKE COUNTY  
TAKEN FROM A MAP DRAWN BY H.S. BALL  
1873

INDIAN TRAILS BY BEULAH BRANNON

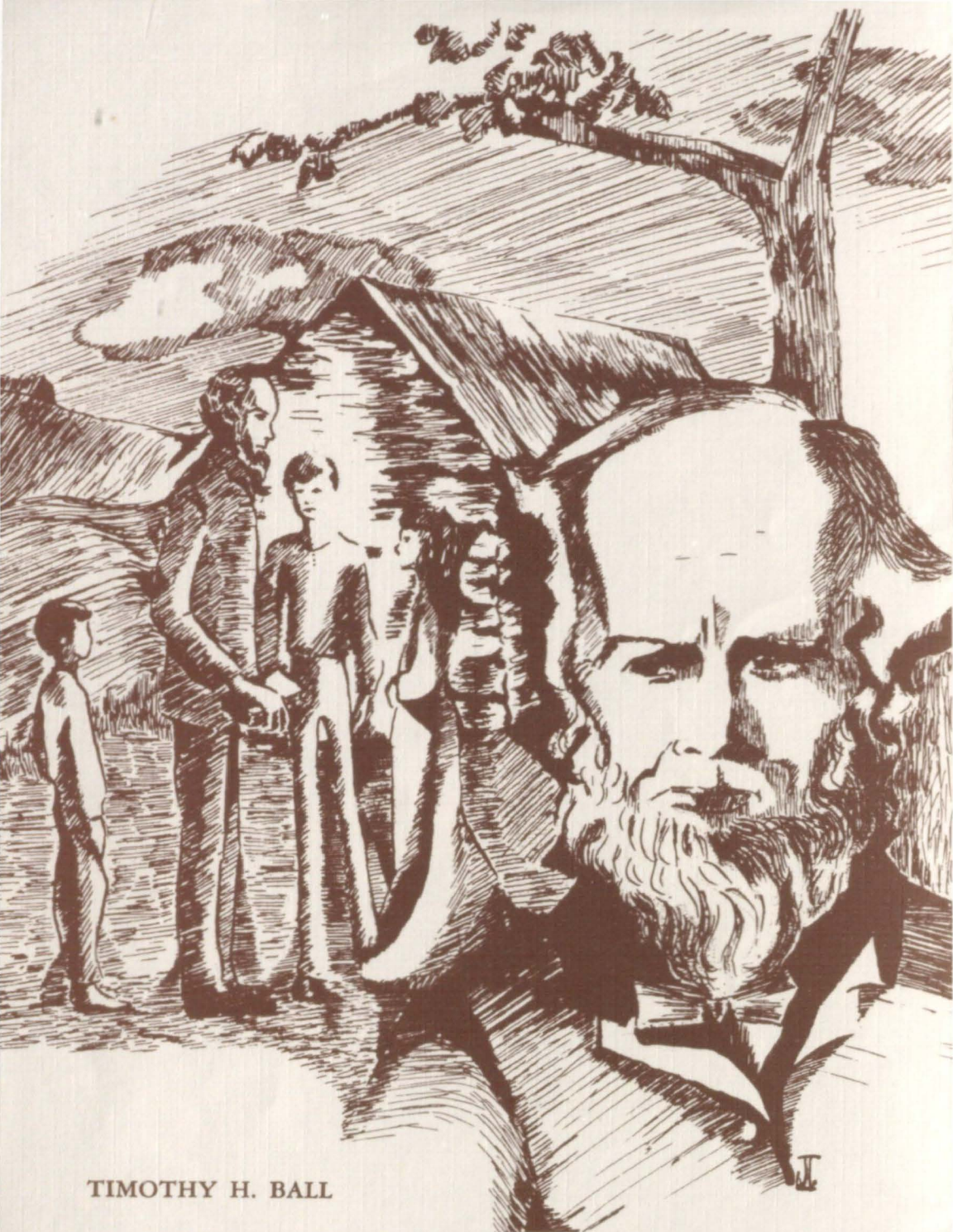
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## TIMOTHY H. BALL

August 1837, the Judge Hervey Ball family homesteaded on the shore of "The Lake of The Red Cedars" overlooking Prairie West.

Mrs. Jane A. Horton Ball, educated in the finest New England schools, was not only an experienced teacher but proficient in fine arts and medicine.

Early in 1839 her home became the first school offering courses for primary, secondary and academic education.

The most advanced pupil was son Timothy, age 13. He excelled in Greek, Latin, and Sciences. In his mid-teens he entered Franklin College, Franklin, Indiana, where he earned his B. A. and M. A. degrees. Theology degrees were received from Eastern seminaries.

Timothy Horton Ball became the renowned historian of Lake County, an eminent preacher, teacher and poet. Thirteen books, and many pamphlets bear tribute.



## THE THREE CREEKS MONUMENT

Twenty-five feet high, with a nine foot base, this beautiful granite obelisk stands on the Library square, 500-510 East Commercial Avenue, Lowell, Indiana. The figure of a Union soldier proudly does sentinel duty from the top of the shaft.

On each of the three sides are carved the names of the men, and one woman, who served from the three Creeks townships—West, Eagle and Cedar. They represent the war of 1812, Civil War, Mexican and the Spanish War.

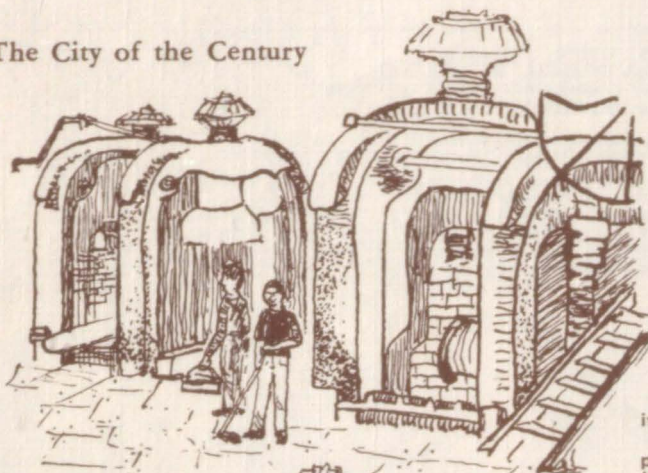
The fourth side bears the names of the men who enlisted from other places but who either lived or are buried in the townships.

Erected in 1900, it was dedicated in 1905 by Governor Frank Hanley, of Indiana and Department Commander Lucas of the G. A. R.



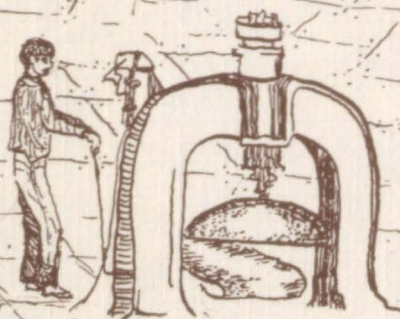


## The City of the Century

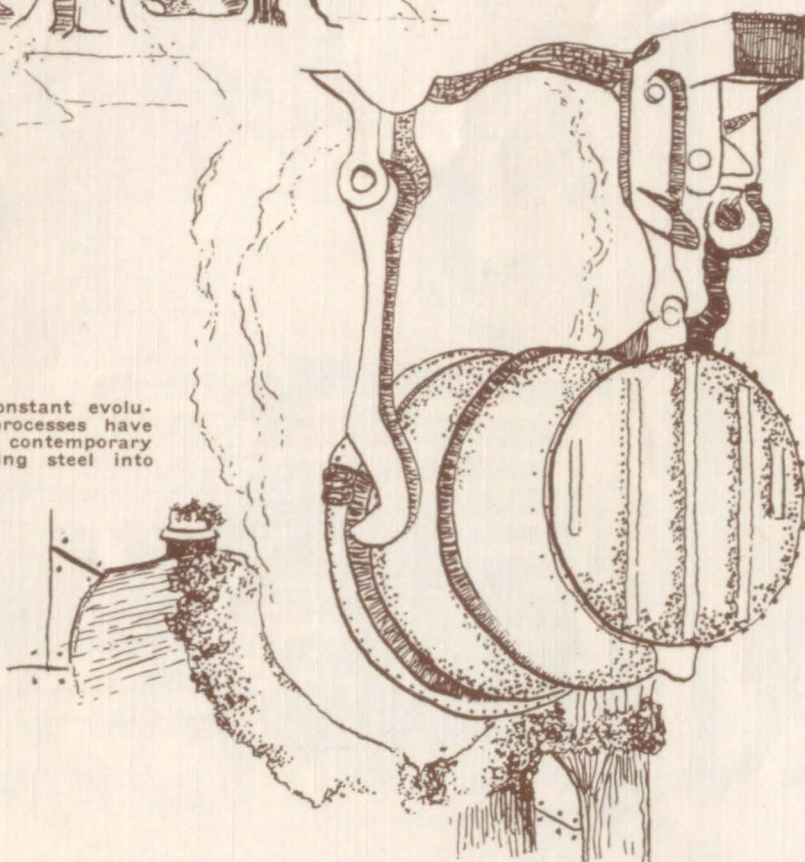


April 19, 1966 Gary celebrated its 60th Birthday.

The United States Steel Corporation in 1908 put into operation the first open hearth.



Since then constant evolution improving processes have resulted in the contemporary method of ladeling steel into the moulds.





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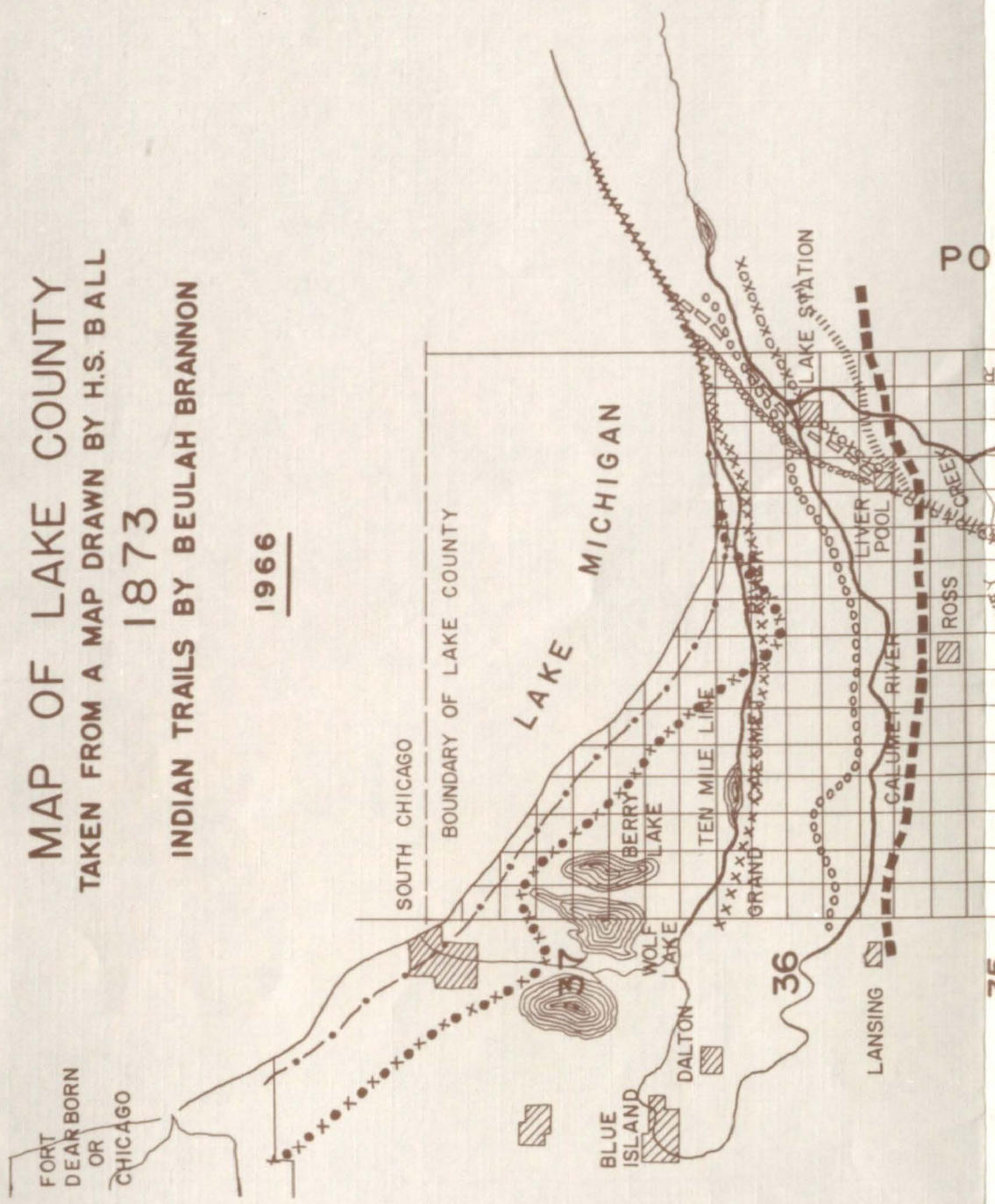




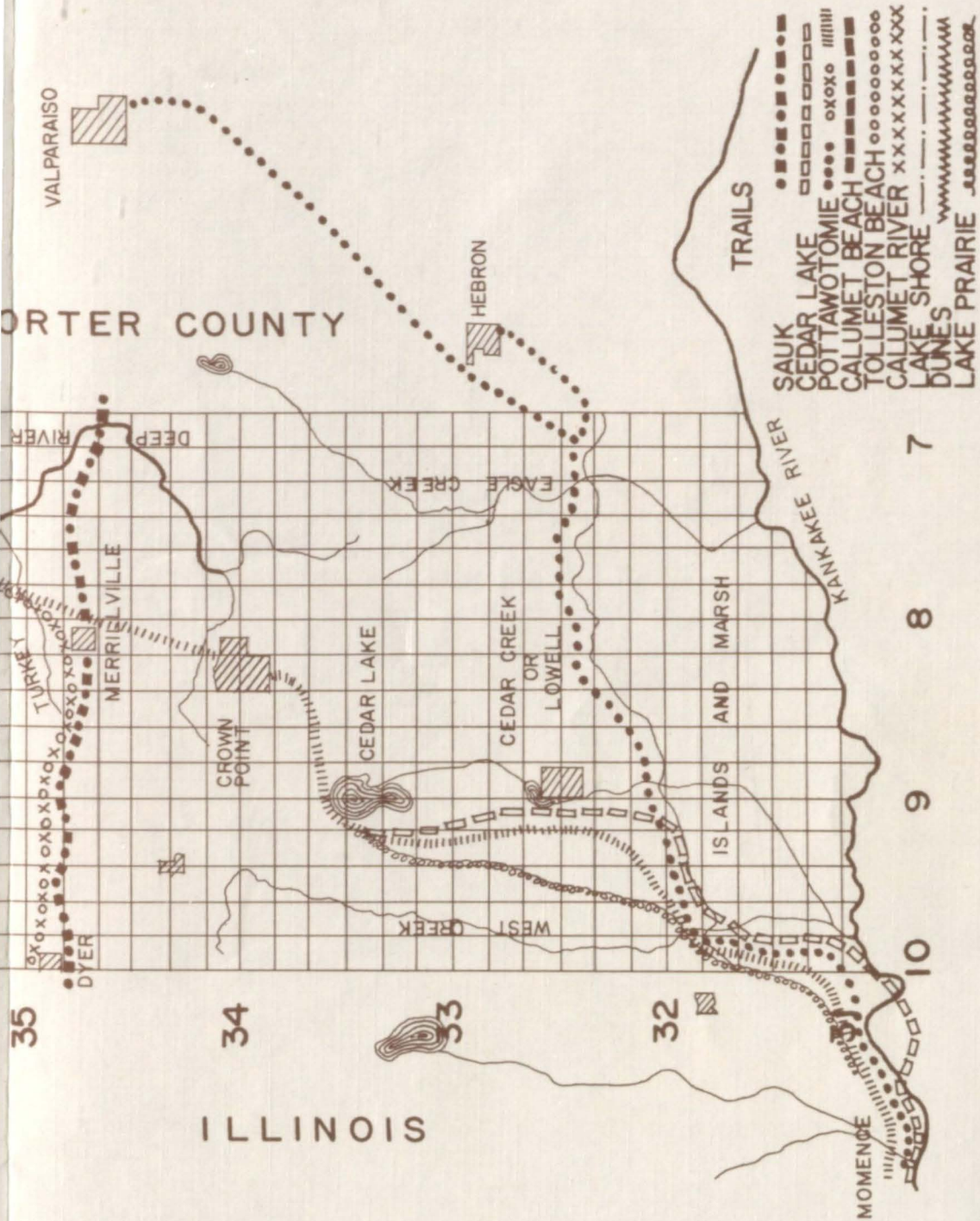
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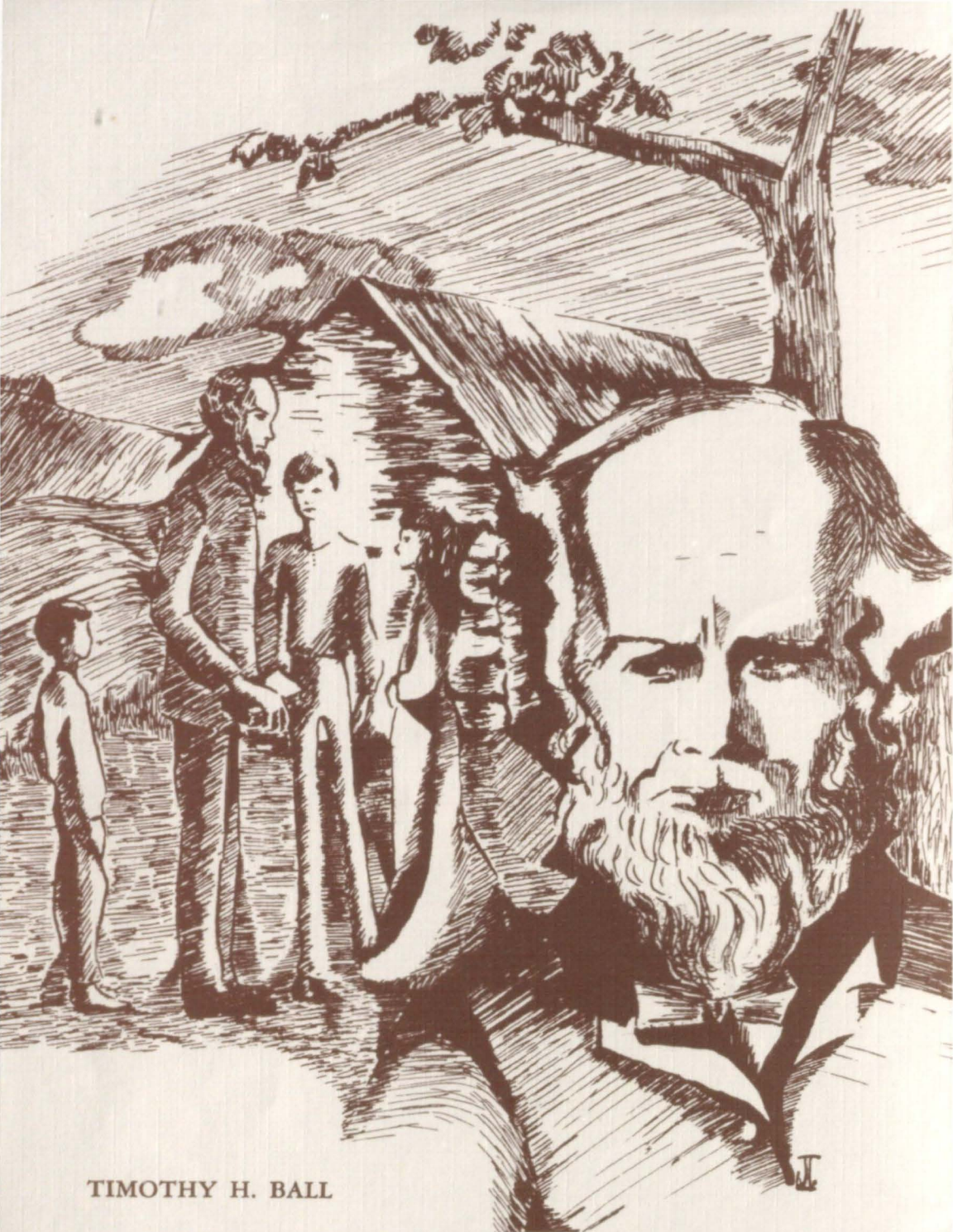
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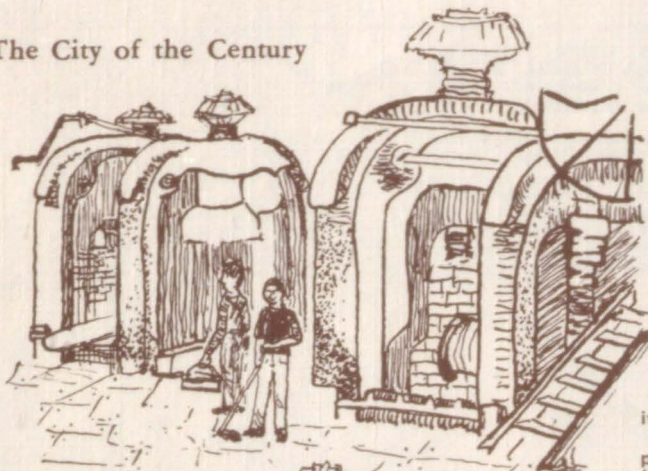
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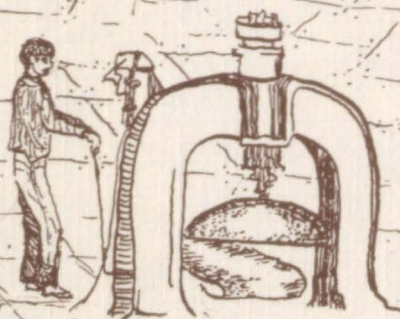


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